

Story 21

Katsir bin Qais رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ says, “I was sitting with Hadhrat Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ in a masjid in Damascus when a person came to him and said, ‘O Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ! I have come all the way from Madinah Munawwarah to learn one Hadith from you because you have heard it directly from Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.’ Hadhrat Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ asked him if he had any other work in Damascus. He replied that he did not have any other work. Hadhrat Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ again asked, ‘Are you sure you have no other work in Damascus?’ He replied, ‘I have come here only to learn this Hadith from you.’ Hadhrat Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ then said, ‘Listen! I have heard Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ saying that Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى makes the way to Jannah easy for the person who travels to seek knowledge. The angels spread their wings for him and everything in the heavens and earth, even the fish in the sea, make dua for his forgiveness. The greatness of a person of knowledge over a person involved in ‘ibaadat (worshiping Allah), is like the greatness of the moon over the stars. The Ulama are the inheritors of the Ambiyaa عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ. The Ambiyaa عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ did not leave behind gold and silver. They left behind knowledge. A person who acquires knowledge acquires a great wealth.”

Hadhrat Abu Darda رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was one of the Sahaabah who had great knowledge. He is known as Hakeemul-Ummah (The very wise person of the ummah).

Hadhrat Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ says that Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “If you wish to see people who are freed from the fire of Jahannam, then look at the students of Deen. By Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, when a student goes to the door of an ‘Aalim with the intention of learning, for every step that he takes he will be given the reward of one years ‘ibaadah. Every piece of ground that he steps on makes dua for his forgiveness and day and night the angels announce, ‘Here are those whom Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has freed from the fire (of Jahannam).’ In this way a palace is built for him in Jannah.”

Story 22

Many students were studying Hadith in Madinah Munawwarah by Imaam Maalik رَحِمَهُ اللهُ. One day there was an announcement that an elephant had come into the town. An elephant is a very strange animal to the Arabs. The students heard this announcement and immediately left the lessons and ran out. One of the students, whose name was Yahya, remained seated peacefully. Imaam Maalik رَحِمَهُ اللهُ asked him: “There are no elephants in the country you live in. Why don’t you also go to see it?” Yahya replied: “Hadhrat, I left Spain to meet you and learn from you. I did not leave my hometown to see elephants.” Imaam Maalik رَحِمَهُ اللهُ was very pleased when he heard this reply and gave him the title; “The most intelligent of the people of Andalus (Spain).”